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DATE: November 17, 2006

PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 10/649,068-Conf. #4645  
Patent Number

Inventor: Joseph L. Mark et al.

MESSAGE TO: US Patent and Trademark Office

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FROM: RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC  
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Attorney Dkt. #: 65937-0037

PAGES (Including Cover Sheet): 5

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Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages)  
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Application No. (if known): 10/649,068

Attorney Docket No.: 65937-0037

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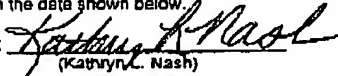
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(Kathryn L. Nash)Docket No.: 65937-0037  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Joseph L. Mark et al.

Application No.: 10/649,068

Confirmation No.: 4645

Filed: August 27, 2003

Art Unit: 3737

For: INTRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR  
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL  
INSTRUMENTS

Examiner: R. S. Smith

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (37 CFR 1.97(c)).

NOV 17 2006

Application No.: 10/649,068

Docket No.: 65937-0037

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(ii), Applicant has not submitted copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is not given.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p). The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65937-0037. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: November 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Kristin L. Murphy

Registration No.: 41,212

RADER, FISHMAN &amp; GRAUER PLLC

Correspondence Customer Number: 10291

Attorney for Applicant

NOV 17 2006

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/649,068-Conf. #4645
				Filing Date	August 27, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Joseph L. Mark
				Art Unit	3737
				Examiner Name	R. S. Smith
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	65937-0037

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA*	US-5,647,374	07-15-1997	Cutrer	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>3</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

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